REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are presently active in this case, Claim 1 having been amended by way of the present Amendment. Claims 2 and 6-12 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species of the invention. The Applicant submits that amended Claim 1 remains generic to and/or links all of the species identified in the Election of Species dated December 14, 2004.

Support for the amendments set forth herein can be found throughout the specification, for example, in paragraphs [0035], [0051]-[0053], etc. Thus, no new matter has been entered.

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nobuta et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0148924 A1). Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nobuta et al. in view of Fuji (JP 5-337544). For the reasons discussed below, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the art rejections.

In the Office Action, the Nobuta et al. reference is indicated as anticipating independent Claim 1. The Applicant notes that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claims is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). As will be demonstrated below, the Nobuta et al. reference clearly does not meet each and every limitation of amended independent Claim 1.

Claim 1 of the present application recites a rolled paper conveying apparatus comprising, among other features, a holding device having a slanted surface configured to support and guide movement of the first rolled paper from a first position on the holding device to a second position on the holding device, a conveyance device configured to convey the paper of the first rolled paper, where the conveyance device being configured to move the first roller paper from the first position to the second position. The Applicant submits that the Nobuta et al. reference does not disclose such features.

The Nobuta et al. reference a film connecting/feeding apparatus that has a configuration in which there are set a delivery position (10) where a delivery film roll is held, a standby position (20) where a spare film roll is held, and a connecting position (30) where a leading end of a film delivered from the spare film roll is held, and the leading end and a film delivered from the delivery position are connected. The apparatus includes a delivery supporting unit (40), provided at the delivery position, which rotatably supports the axial core of a delivery film roll, and standby supporting unit (50), provided at the standby position, which supports the axial core of the spare film roll, and an endless belt member (64) which is put around a rotary member and circumferentially travels. The apparatus includes roll conveying unit (60) which includes a conveying member which is attached to this endless belt member, and holds the axial core of the film roll, wherein the roll conveying unit receives a spare film roll by means of the conveying member from the standby supporting unit, conveys the film roll to the delivery position, and passes the same to the delivery supporting unit.

In the apparatus described in the Nobuta et al. reference, a delivery roller (4) is driven

by a delivery motor (5). The delivery roller (4) is used to deliver a film (12) from the film roll (11) at the delivery position (10) to an upright bag-making/filling wrapping machine (121).

In the apparatus of the Nobuta et al. reference, the delivery roller (4) and delivery motor (5) do not move the rolls between the various roll positions. For example, the delivery roller (4) and delivery motor (5) do not move the rolls from the standby position (20) to the delivery position (10). In the apparatus of the Nobuta et al. reference, the movement of the film roll (11) and the spare film roll (21) between the various roll positions is performed solely by the roll conveying unit (60), which controls the movement of the rolls along various paths (67a, 67b, and 67c) using a driving motor (65). The roll conveying unit (60) utilizes conveying members (66) to precisely control the position of the rolls.

Accordingly, the Nobuta et al. reference clearly does not disclose an apparatus that includes a conveyance device that is configured to convey paper of a rolled paper, where the conveyance device is also configured to move the roller paper from a first position to a second position, as recited in Claim 1 of the present application. As noted above, the delivery roller (4) and delivery motor (5) of the Nobuta et al. reference do not move the rolls between the various roll positions, but rather a separate roll conveying unit is provided to perform such a function.

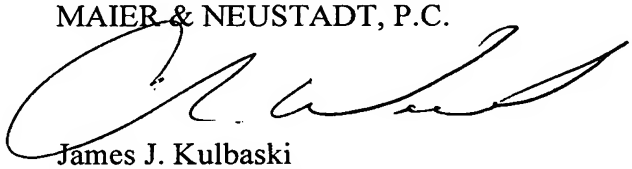
As the Nobuta et al. reference does not disclose all of the limitations recited in Claim 1 of the present application, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of Claim 1 based on the Nobuta et al. reference.

Claims 3-5 are considered allowable for the reasons advanced for Claim 1 from which they depend. These claims are further considered allowable as they recite other features of the invention that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the applied references when those features are considered within the context of Claim 1.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski
Registration No. 34,648
Attorney of Record

Christopher D. Ward
Registration No. 41,367

Customer Number
22850
Tel. (703) 413-3000
Fax. (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 10/01)

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